GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:938
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2007
STATUS OF INDIAN ECONOMY
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US donor agency USAID has upgraded the status of Indian economy from `developing country` to a `transforming country` in view of the present economic boom India enjoys;

(b) if so, whether USAID has downgraded its share of aid to India drastically, in contrast to major allocations amounting to almost 85% of its aid to South East Asian countries, to Pakistan and Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, it may be noted that when a country is classified as transformational, a higher allocation is given to capacity building (investing in people) which is not the case when it is marked as developing.

(c) For the US Fiscal year 2008, USAID has requested US Government foreign assistance level of US$ 81 million for India. Also, for the US fiscal year 2008, USAID has requested foreign assistance levels of US$1067.05 million for Afghanistan and US$ 785 million for Pakistan, which put together is about 84.48 percent of US$ 2.19 billion, the amount requested for the South and Central Asian Countries. However, the budget for Fiscal Year 2008 has not been approved by US Congress as yet.